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Charles Darwin Elliot

Mary Elvira Elliot

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CHARLES DARWIN ELLIOT

MARY ELVIRA ELLIOT

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Charles D. Elliot

CHARLES DARWIN ELLIOT.— Thomas Eliot, one of the ancestors of the subject of this sketch, was admitted a freeman of Swansea, Mass., February 22, 1669, and became a member of the Baptist church under the Rev. John Myles. He was one of the proprietors of Taunton North Purchase. Of his ancestry no record has been found. He died in Rehoboth, Mass., May 23, 1700; and his wife, Jane, whom he married about the year 1676 or 1677, died in Taunton, Mass., November 9, 1689. They had five children, namely: Abigaile, Thomas, Jr., Joseph, Elizabeth, and Benjamin. Thomas Eliot served as a Corporal in Captain William Turner's company in King Philip's War in 1675 and 1676. His sword, gun, and ammunition are mentioned in the inventory of his estate.

Joseph, his son, was born in Taunton, March 2, 1684, and died April 21, 1752. He married July 22, 1710, Hannah White, daughter of John White, another soldier of King Philip's War. She died March 5, 1775, aged ninety-two years. In 1731 Joseph Eliot was chosen Treasurer of Norton North Precinct and afterward Selectman. His son Nehemiah was born March 8, 1719, and died December 8, 1802. Nehemiah Eliot was at one time Treasurer of Norton North Precinct. He married September 23, 1747, Mercy White, daughter of Nicholas White. She was born July 7, 1723, and died May 8, 1780.

Joseph Eliot, born June 25, 1749, son of

Nehemiah, married May 7, 1773, Joanna Morse, daughter of Elisha Morse. She was born September 17, 1751, and died December 6, 1837. This second Joseph Eliot was a minute-man of the Revolution, marching at the Lexington alarm, April 20, 1775, for Boston. He served through the siege of Boston and, re-enlisting, through campaigns in New York and New Jersey under General Washington and as Corporal in the Saratoga campaign under General Gates. He died of sickness while in the service on December 15, 1777. Joel Eliot, son of Joseph and Joanna, was born August 30, 1775, and died at Foxboro, Mass., July 23, 1864. His wife, Mary Murray Flagg, died January 23, 1865, aged eighty-three years. She was daughter of Timothy and Sarah (Hicks) Flagg and granddaughter of John Hicks, a member of the Boston Tea Party and one of the Cambridge minutemen killed in the battle of Lexington. Joel Elliot lived for many years in Cambridge, having a store near Harvard Square. He was at one time a member of the Cambridge fire department. In 1816 he moved to Foxboro, Mass., where he became a prosperous farmer. It was he who changed the spelling of the family name from "Eliot" to its present form.

Joseph, third of this name, son of Joel and Mary and father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Cambridge, near Harvard Square, January 1, 1807, and died in Somerville, Mass., July 7, 1874, aged sixty-seven years. He married at Mount Holly, Vt., December 24, 1835, Zenora Tucker, daughter of Stephen Tucker, Jr. She was born February 10, 1809, at Mount

Holly, Vt., and died there, while visiting her old home, October 25, 1885, in the same room in which she was married. Joseph Elliot, third, first built in Foxboro Centre. He moved thence to Wrentham, from there to Malden, and in 1846 to Somerville, where for fifteen years he was station agent of the Prospect Street, now Union Square, Station on the Fitchburg Railroad. He was at one time a member of the Somerville fire department and in early life of the State militia. He was one of the first members of the First Universalist Society of Somerville. Mrs. Zenora Tucker Elliot was educated at Randolph Academy, one of the leading seminaries of Massachusetts in the early part of the century. She was in early life a Methodist, but later a Universalist. She was much interested in religion, literature, elocution, temperance, and soldiers' relief work.

Her father, Stephen Tucker, Jr., was son of Captain Stephen and Abigail (Newell) Tucker. He was born in Charlestown, Mass., February 14, 1765, and died in Mount Holly, Vt., December 26, 1828. During the burning of Charlestown in 1775 his mother fled with her children across the neck to Medford, every moment threatened with destruction from the British shot and shell which howled around their carriage.

Stephen, Jr., and Sibil Lawrence were married December 20, 1790, at Littleton, Mass., and thence removed to Mount Holly, Vt., he for many years being Town Clerk, Selectman, and Trial Justice. Sibil Lawrence, daughter of Simon and Sibil (Robbins) Lawrence, born

June 14, 1770, died April 16, 1813. She was a direct descendant of John Lawrence, of Watertown, who came from England "about the year 1630," and whose ancestry has been traced back to Sir Robert Lawrence, of Lancashire, one of the crusaders, who was knighted A.D. 1191. Lieutenant Eleazer Lawrence, Samuel Champney, Captain John Scill, Edward Mitchelson, and other ancestors of Mr. Elliot were in the Indian or Colonial wars.

The children of Joseph and Zenora Elliot are: Charles Darwin, Alfred Lawrence, and Mary Elvira — all still living.

Charles Darwin Elliot was born in Foxboro, Mass., June 20, 1837. He was educated in the schools of Foxboro, Wrentham, Malden, and Somerville, and the Hopkins Classical School, Cambridge. He studied civil engineering in the office of W. B. Stearns, who was later president of the Fitchburg Railroad. His early professional experience was upon that road and upon municipal engineering in Boston, Charlestown, Cambridge, Somerville, and elsewhere. In 1862 he was appointed by the War Department Assistant Topographical Engineer, and served on the staffs of Captain (afterward General) Henry L. Abbott and Major D. C. Houston, Chief Engineers of the Nineteenth Army Corps, in the Teche, Port Hudson, Texas, Florida, and Red River campaigns, upon reconnaissance, in charge of the construction of fortifications, and upon siege and other work, being attached at different times to the headquarters of Generals Grover, Franklin, Cameron, and Asboth, participating in the battles of Fort Bisland, Sabine

Pass, and siege of Port Hudson, and twice receiving special mention for efficient field service. He was proffered a commission in the Corps d'Afrique in 1863 and in the loyal Louisiana troops in 1864, but declined both.

Since the war he has been engaged upon various engineering works, including water supply, canal, sanitary, and municipal, and in later years largely as professional expert for corporations and estates. In 1872, 1874, and 1875 he was City Engineer of Somerville.

In 1863 he married at New Orleans, La., Miss Emily Jane Hyer, adopted daughter of Judge Nathaniel F. Hyer, one of the founders of the State of Wisconsin, and an officer in the Union army. She was born in Union, Rock County, Wis., November 23, 1843, removing in 1848 to Missouri and thence to Texas, Florida, and Louisiana. Her own parents, David and Mary (Spencer) Ring, were from Maine, and were probably descendants of the first or early settlers of Plymouth, Mass. One of her ancestors was Captain Thomas Urann, who was a member of the Tea Party, and served in the Revolution under General Heath. He was one of the Sons of Liberty, and also a member of the North End Caucus, a patriotic association whose membership included Revere, John and Samuel Adams, and General Warren. He was a member and for some time Master of the celebrated St. Andrew's Lodge of Free Masons and one of the first officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Mr. Elliot is president of the Somerville Historical Society, and is a member of the Board of Trade, of the Sons of the American Revolu-

tion, of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, American Historical Association, and other organizations. He was the author of the history of Somerville published in 1892, and has been a contributor to the press.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliot have four children living, namely: Clara Zenora, born in Cambridge, July 7, 1866; Ella Florence, born in Newton, July 17, 1868; Charles Joseph, born in Cambridge, August 10, 1870; and Addie Genevieve, born in Somerville, March 11, 1873. Their first child, Emily Frances, was born at Cambridge, July 4, 1865, and died August 23, 1865.

MARY ELVIRA ELLIOT was born in Somerville, Mass., February 2, 1851, and is a daughter of the late Joseph and Zenora (Tucker) Elliot. She was educated in the public schools of Somerville and Cambridge and at a private school in Foxboro.

Miss Elliot began writing for the press in 1867, and has published numerous articles and reports. From 1867 to 1885 she was active in the temperance work, and gave addresses upon the subject in many sections of the State. In 1878 she assisted in organizing a relief corps in Somerville, auxiliary to Willard C. Kinsley Post, No. 139, G. A. R., which was one of the first societies of the kind organized in the country. She served as its president five years and as secretary one year. In 1885 she was appointed secretary of the Department of Mas-

sachusetts, Woman's Relief Corps, in which office she still continues. With one hundred and seventy-two subordinate corps (all auxiliary to posts of the Grand Army of the Republic) and over fourteen thousand members, her office is one of great responsibility.

She has participated in all the national conventions since 1883, and in so doing has travelled in nearly all the States and Territories of the Union. In 1895 Miss Elliot was chairman of a committee to compile a History of the Department of Massachusetts, Woman's Relief Corps, a volume of four hundred pages; and she now has in preparation a book nearly completed, entitled "Standard-Bearers of Massachusetts Posts," which will contain sketches of the heroes and civilians whose names are thus honored. When published, it will be unique in character, as no such work has ever been issued in any State.

Miss Elliot has delivered Memorial Day addresses in Massachusetts and New Hampshire by invitation of Grand Army posts, and has participated in several hundred patriotic gatherings. She is an officer of the Ladies' Aid Association of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, and her name is on its first roll of membership. She is also a charter member of Bunker Hill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; and a member of the Somerville Historical Society; the New England Historic-Genealogical Society; and of other organizations.

She is a descendant of Thomas Eliot, one of the early Baptist settlers of Swansea, Mass.

(in 1669), and a soldier in King Philip's War. The ancestral line is: Thomas[1] (mentioned above); Joseph[2]; Nehemiah[3]; Joseph,[4] a martyr of the Revolution; Joel[5]; and Joseph,[6] her father above mentioned, who was born in Cambridge, Mass., January 1, 1807, and whose wife, Zenora Tucker, was born in Mount Holly, Vt., February 10, 1809.

In his early days Joseph Elliot was much interested in politics, and was offered the Postmastership of Foxboro, which he declined. He was identified with the old Democratic party in its contest with the Whigs, but became a Republican upon the organization of that party, and voted its ticket the remainder of his life. When quite a young man he became a Universalist, the first of his family to embrace that faith, which at that time was not popular. He was a very zealous believer, and had a wide acquaintance with the leaders of Universalism, among them being the Rev. Thomas Whittemore, editor of *The Trumpet and Universalist Magazine*, who was a frequent visitor to his home. Mr. Elliot was one of the first members of the First Universalist Church in Somerville. His death occurred July 7, 1874, at his home in Somerville.

One of his ancestors was John Hicks, a minute-man of the Revolution, who was killed at the beginning of the war, being one of the "men of Cambridge who fell in defence of the liberty of the people, April 19, 1775," and in whose memory the city of Cambridge has erected a monument in the historic burial-ground near Harvard Square. A tablet else-

where marks the spot where John Hicks laid down his life.

Miss Elliot's mother was a daughter of Stephen Tucker, Jr., who was born in Charlestown, Mass., February 14, 1765. During the battle of Bunker Hill his mother, with her children, fled to Mystic (now Medford), where they, with other inhabitants of the burning city, were cared for. His father, Stephen Tucker, Sr., was a sea captain, and absent on a voyage at this time. Stephen Tucker, Jr., married Sibbel Lawrence, whose ancestry is traceable through John Lawrence, of Watertown, to Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton Hall, England, one of the Crusaders, knighted in 1191 for his bravery at the siege of Acre by Richard Cœur de Lion.

One of her ancestors was Lieutenant Eleazer Lawrence, who was prominent in the Indian wars; and another was Zachariah Robbins, who served throughout the Revolution, a part of the time in the army and then in the navy.

Stephen Tucker, Jr., was one of the pioneer settlers of Rutland County, Vermont, having moved from Littleton, Mass., to Mount Holly about 1795 or 1796. He was elected Town Clerk, and was honored for his ability and integrity. His daughter, Zenora, Mrs. Joseph Elliot, was a woman of progressive ideas and of literary talent. Several of her poems have been published. She was active in church and philanthropic movements and a highly respected member of several organizations. Her death occurred October 25, 1885, while on a visit to the home of her girlhood in Mount

Holly, Vt. She was buried in the Cambridge cemetery.

Mary E. Elliot has two brothers, Charles Darwin Elliot and Alfred Lawrence Elliot.

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